



SOME ACCOUNT OF THE LIVERY COMPANIES OF THE CITY OF LONDON.



THE ANCIENT MERCHANT TAILORS' HALL.

II.

SECTION 5.

STATE OF THE LIVERY COMPANIES AFTER THE REFORMATION.

RETURNING to Mr. Herbert's interesting account of the great Livery Companies of London, we glean the following particulars of their position, subsequent to the Reformation. In Roman catholic times, it had been customary, in making gifts, and devising estates to these societies, to charge such gifts with annual payments, for supporting chantries for the souls of their respective donors, and so universal was this custom, that scarcely any property was left, without being restricted in this way. But when the efficacy of these religious establishments began to be disbelieved, and when, at the Reformation, an act was passed for the dissolution of colleges, chantries, and free chapels, the City companies saw a large portion of their trust estates in danger of changing hands with the change of religion. The colleges, chantries, &c., were in fact bestowed upon the king and his successors; but they do not appear to have been wholly taken possession of by the crown, until the next reign, when a new act vested all such as had not been before seized on, (and which included "all payments by corporations, mysteries, or crafts, for priests' obits and lamps," in the king; to whom they were to be paid by the companies.

"This," says Strype, "was a great blow to the corporations of London; nor was there any other way for them

but to purchase and buy off those rent-charges, and get as good pennyworths as they could of the king; and this they did in the third of Edward the Sixth, by selling other of their lands, to enable them to make these purchases. This cost the companies 18,700*l.*, which possessions, when they had thus cleared again, they employed to good uses, according to the first intent of them, abating the superstition."

The change was indeed one that must have proved highly beneficial to the poor of the respective companies, for with a part of the sum previously used for maintaining a priest to say masses for the souls of deceased persons, the twelve companies each paid annually a sum varying from forty to one hundred and fifty pounds, in pensions to "poore decayed brethren, in exhibitions to schollers, towards the maintenance of a schole, and in almes to poore men and women."

The seizure of the chantry estates was followed by a measure of emancipation, tending to promote the general interests of trade, but inflicting another blow on the companies. It ordained that all manner of workmen connected in the building of houses and other edifices, were licensed to exercise their occupations in cities and towns corporate, though they were *not free* of such corporations. This shows that inconvenience began to be felt from the exclusive privileges of corporations, and which now demanded some relaxation. This portion of the act, however, was subsequently repealed.

The custom of forced loans was noticed as having been begun in the reign of Henry the Eighth. This custom

was resumed by Queen Mary, in 1557, who required the sum of twenty thousand pounds of the City companies, which was lent by them at twelve per cent., secured on certain of the crown lands. In July of the same year, the first compulsory levy of soldiers was made on the companies. The form of precept sent on this occasion by the mayor to the Grocers' company, commands the wardens "to provide sixty good sadd and habile men to be souldgears, whereof two to be horsemen, well horsed and armyd; twenty of them to be harquebuziers or archers; twenty to bear pykes; and eighteen to be bill-men, all well harnysed and weponed, mete and convenient, accordyng to the appoyntment of our sovereigne lorde and ladye the king's and queen's majestie; as well for the suretie and safeguarde of their highnesses' chambre and citie of London, as the resistance of such militiuous attempts as may happen to be made against them by foreigne enemye." The next year, two hundred thousand pounds was raised in the city to carry on the French war, and all the companies were forced to contribute largely. "From this period," says Mr. Herbert, "the extracting of money from the trading corporations became a regular source of supply to government; and was prosecuted during Elizabeth's and the succeeding reigns, with a greediness and injustice that scarcely left those societies time to breathe. Contributions towards setting the poor to work; towards erecting the Royal Exchange; towards cleansing the city ditch; and towards projects of discovering new countries; money for furnishing military and naval armaments; for men, arms, and ammunition, to protect the city; for state and city pageants and attendances; for provisions of coal and corn; compulsory loans for government and for the prince; state lotteries, monopolous patents, 'concealments,' seditious publications and practices, sumptuary regulations, and twenty other sponging expedients, were amongst the most prominent of the engines by which that 'Mother of her People,' Queen Elizabeth, and afterwards James and Charles, contrived to screw from the companies their wealth."

The power of impressment of their members for naval purposes, belonged to the companies, and, in 1578, the Grocers had a precept to provide fifteen men for "her majesty's shippes." An entry of payment was accordingly made "for fifteen blew cotes" made for the said men. The Ironmongers' books show that they also received an order of the same date, for eight men, to hold themselves in readiness to embark on board the vessels appointed. In 1588, the threatened danger of the Spanish Armada called forth the energies of the companies, so that the call on them was nobly responded to. Government demanded ten thousand men, and thirty-eight ships, of the city, and these were supplied with the greatest alacrity. On the defeat of the Armada, the government resolved on increasing the naval force of the kingdom, and here again the good offices of the City companies were put in requisition. Upwards of seven thousand pounds were raised on this occasion, and five years afterwards, a further sum of three thousand five hundred was demanded, and the money was paid chiefly by the same bodies.

Numerous examples of a similar kind might be given; but these will suffice to show the extensive demands which were systematically made on these wealthy corporations. In 1572, they were required to keep up a regular and separate standing force for the protection of the city. They therefore selected from among their several companies, "three thousand of the most sizeable and active young men," part of whom were appointed musketeers, and the rest pikemen. The whole were regularly drilled, till they were accounted proficient, when they were reviewed by the queen in person, in Greenwich Park.

Throughout the reign of Elizabeth, May-games, masques, and mummeries were the order of the day, and the City companies were required to bear a very costly part in the shows. In the May-game of 1559, the Ironmongers sent men in armour to go before the queen's majesty to Greenwich, and in pursuance of a second precept from the mayor, "twenty-eight hansom men, well and handsomely arrayed, and ten whiffelers (fifers) went also to feach the queene's majeste," furnished with two new streamers of silk, a great flag, and twelve small banners. At another royal pageant at Greenwich, the twelve principal trade corporations of London sent out the same number of companies, consisting together of fourteen hundred men, to be mustered in Greenwich Park before the queen; eight hundred whereof were pikemen in bright armour, four hundred harquebussiers in coats of mail and helmets, and two hundred halberdiers in

German rivets. These troops were attended by twenty-eight whiffelers, richly dressed, and led by the twelve principal wardens of the aforesaid corporations, well-mounted, and dressed in black velvet, with six ensigns in white satin, faced with black sarsnet, and rich scarfs. The Grocers' contribution to the same pageant was ordered to be "one hundred and ninety persons apte and picked men; whereof sixty to be with calyvers, flashes, touche boxes, morions, swordes, and daggers, for a *shewe* at Greenwich." The Merchant-Tailors sent one hundred and eighty-seven men as their proportion to another splendid "Maying."

Similar precepts were received on other occasions, requiring this and other companies to furnish men and armour for the yearly exhibitions, of which Elizabeth was so fond. In the reigns of James and Charles, the pageants chiefly consisted of processions of the companies and corporations of London, to receive royal and distinguished persons on their state passage through the city. An instance of this is given in the preparations that were made to receive the Russian ambassador in 1617, when ten persons of the chief and best of the Merchant-Tailors' company were ordered "presently" to "furnish themselves to be present upon warning to attend the brethren the aldermen at Guildhall, at such a time as shall hereafter be made known, in velvet coats, with chaines of gold, well mounted on horseback, in comely and decent order, to accompany and ride with the aldermen to the Tower wharf, for the more graceful entertainment of the said ambassador." The processions on these occasions sometimes reached a great way. On one occasion, when the lord mayor and aldermen in scarlet attended to meet Henry, Prince of Wales, the commons in their liveries stood from Bishopsgate Street to St. Paul's. Until the time of Charles the First, the companies always stood, and directions were given for providing "rails" for the purpose of keeping off the crowd; but, at a later period, it became the fashion for the companies to be seated, and accounts are given of the "great street of London" (Cheap-side) having in all its length "benches with backs, and enriched with ballusters three feet high, all covered over equally with blue cloth," in which, and the continuations of the same standings, (said to have extended a league in length,) "all the companies or fraternities of the different trades, in all amounting to fifty, appeared in citizens' gowns, with trimmings of martin-skin, sitting on the benches, every company having its banner of arms, in order that they might be distinguished one from the other." This imposing array of the companies was rendered the more impressive by the rich decoration of the various streets, which are described as being dressed with "woven tapistry; that with Flemish or embroidery, this with Chinese, and the other with Indian drapery." The whole of the Drapers' street, (Mercery, in Cheap,) was hung with scarlet cloth.

SECTION 6.

THE COMPANIES' PROVISION FOR THE POOR.

In the year of the Great Plague, (1665,) the first mention is made of the provision of coals by the companies, for the relief of the poor. Northouck thus speaks of the custom. "For a constant supply of sea-coal for the use of the poor in times of scarcity, and to defeat the combinations of coal-dealers, the several City companies were ordered to purchase, and lay up yearly, between Lady-day and Michaelmas, the following quantities of coals; which in dear times were to be vended in such a manner, and at such prices, as the lord mayor and court of aldermen, should by written precept direct, so that the coals should not be sold to loss:—Mercers', four hundred and eighty-eight chaldrons; Grocers', six hundred and seventy-five; Merchant-Tailors', seven hundred and fifty;" and so on, with a long list of companies. On the benefit attending this plan, the writer quoted makes the following comment. "Such magazines of coals opened in November or December, as the season dictated, and sold in small quantities, not exceeding a sack of three bushels, would prove a much more prudent assistance to poor working families in hard weather, than double the money distributed gratuitously. How this laudable regulation sunk into disuse does not appear; but as the city halls are dispersed in various parts of the town, the scheme was excellent, and it is to be lamented that the corporation should forget it, and leave attempts of this nature to private undertakers. As early as the year 1512, historians state the very best coals to have been five shillings the chaldron, and the inferior sorts four shillings and sixpence. They are mentioned to have been hawked about the streets in sacks, in the reign of Charles the Second, one

of the London cries of that period being, *Qui vent de charbon?*"

The city and companies also provided corn against a time of scarcity, and the first mayor mentioned as making this provision is Sir Stephen Brown, in 1438, who is thus eulogized by Fuller: "During a great dearth in his mayoralty, he charitably relieved the wants of the poor citizens, by sending ships at his own expense to Dantzic, which returned laden with rye, and which seasonable supply soon sank grain to reasonable rates." About the same period, a public granary was erected at Leadenhall, and a regular custom gradually obtained of the city providing corn. In the course of time, the precepts issued by the mayor, requiring the companies to furnish loans for the purchase of foreign corn, became somewhat peremptory, and so frequent as greatly to inconvenience the lenders. The latter, therefore, in 1561, besought that some of their money might be returned, and received for answer, that those of them who thought it long to wait for their money might have, if they would, *wheate* out of the Bridge-house for their money, at twenty-three shillings a quarter.

If they refused to take wheat, the wardens were to "move and persuade them *gentle* to forbear their seide money untill suche tyme as the cyties corn in the Bridge-house might be conveniently sold and uttered." This provision of corn was afterwards placed on a more settled footing, the mayor and aldermen engaging to advance a fixed sum of ten pounds each, in part of a permanent fund, and afterwards making it a law, that corn was to be regularly purchased, every year, when cheap, and stored up until it became dear. The management and distribution of the corn were also subject to a variety of regulations, by which the corporation were enabled to sell off their stock to advantage in plentiful seasons, and to restrict to its proper objects, the sale in scarce seasons. The demands for loans being still obnoxious and inconvenient to the companies, they at length obtained leave, in 1577, to lay out the sum required of them in corn, of their own, which they were to store up, and sell in accordance with the city regulations. Rooms in the Bridge-house were, therefore, appropriated to their use. "All the garneres of the Bridge-house were divided into twelve equall parts, and the same by indifferent lots," appropriated to the twelve companies, "to every of them an equal part, for the bestowing and keeping of the said corn," and it was to be provided by rateable proportions between them. The contentions between the companies and the city were thus at an end, and nothing further is met with on the subject, until 1596, when the companies built granaries at their own halls. As time passed on, this provision of corn was attempted to be diverted from its original purpose of utility and charity, applications being made for loans of the corn, by parties who should have been above it. An instance of royal poverty and meanness, is preserved in the following letter, written in 1622. "To our lovinge friends, the wardens and assistants of the Company of Grocers of the City of London," and signed by the lord high steward, and other great officers of the king's household: "After our hearty commendations: whereas, by the neglect of his majesty's purveyors, his house is att this tyme altogether unfurnished with *wheate*, by means whereof there is a present want of one hundred quarters of wheate, for the service of his household, we doe, therefore, pray and desire you, that out of your stock, his majesty may be supplied with thirty or forty quarters of your best and sweatest wheate, untill his owne provision may be brought in, the which we doe faithfully promise shall be payd unto you agayn in November next att the furthest; and because itt is intended that by the exchange thereof, you shall have noe losse, we have, therefore, committed the care thereof to Mr. Harvy, one of his majesty's officers of the green clothe, who shall see the same dulye answered and brought into your granarie by the tyme appoynted; and we not doubtyng of your willinge performance upon soe present and needefull occasion, wee bid you heartilie farewell. Whitehall, 27th of September, 1622." This curious document failed of producing the desired effect: the company appears to have had reasons for distrust, and the utmost they would do for the king, was to lend him ten quarters; whether it was repaid or not, we have no information. In an equally mean attempt, made some years afterwards, the court endeavoured to become factors on their own account.

The continuance of the corn custom is traced down to the fire of London, when the companies' mills and granaries being destroyed, the provision ceased, and was not after-

wards renewed. Mr. Herbert's remarks on the discontinuance of this custom, may be given as a sensible qualification of the opinion of Northouck, above quoted. "Whether this provision was ever beneficial to the extent which has been fancied, or, at least, whether its revival in the present day would be attended with the advantage some writers have suggested, is very doubtful. The necessity at first originated in circumstances, which no longer exist. It might be provident of the rich, and useful to the poor, to lay up stores of wheat, in times when there were frequent dearths, owing to the land being chiefly pasture, when the Steelyard merchants were the only importers of *foreign* corn, and the king's purveyor seized the best of wheat that was grown at *home*. In more plentiful times, however, and with the facilities afforded by commerce, and extended agricultural pursuits, the practice evidently tended to monopoly. The companies were always to buy when cheap, and sell when dear, but were never to lose. Query: were they not, from their wealth, often put into a situation to gain? Individually speaking, also, many of the regulations must have been an intolerable burden to them. Compelling them to take the city's surplus corn,—and that they might do so, forbidding bakers or chandlers to furnish them, as well as forcing them, when they were allowed to import, to do it only through city committees, besides other similar orders, must have been monopolous and oppressive. Other of their regulations must have been detrimental to the public; in particular, the order that no chandler or other (merchant importers excepted), should keep corn but for their own consumption, which was leaving the public no channel of purchase but the ones mentioned."

The compulsory loans of different sovereigns have already been alluded to: those of Elizabeth's reign were particularly noted for the trivial sums demanded, and the frequency of the demands. A specimen is given in a precept which the lord mayor was authorized to direct to the Ironmongers' Company, in 1576. "Theis are to will and com'aunde youe, that forthwith youe prepare in a redynes the sume of forty pounds of the stocke of youre halle, (and if you have not so moche in store, then you must borrow the same at ynterest, at *th' only costs and lossis of youre hall*,) to be lent to the queen's majestie for one whole year, not in any wise cawsying any brother of youre companie to bear any p'ticular charge or losse towards the same, but onlye of the rents and stocke of youre said hall, which som'e of forty pounds you shall paye upon Twysdaye next comynge, in the mornynge, at Mr. Stanley's howse, in Aldersgate Street; and there you shall receive an acquyttaunce for the same in forme appoynted. Fayle youe not hereof, as youe will awnser for the contrarye at your peryle. Yeovyn at the Gwyldhall of London, the xxvii. of August, 1576. SEBRIGHTE." "It will hardly be credited," says Malcolm, "that men should have made no effort to amend such sort of proceedings as those, of compelling loans in one half year, and in the next, compelling the lenders to borrow. These precepts, and other resources, produced Queen Elizabeth 140,000*l.*, apparently more than she at that time knew what to do with; however, herself or her ministers found an expedient, which was to force the citizens to receive it for a year or more, at *seven per cent.*, in sums of from five hundred pounds to fifty pounds, each person, on pledges of gold or silver plate, or other ample security." In 1579, Elizabeth demanded a loan of twenty thousand pounds from the city of London, but this was for public purposes, and was readily granted without interest, the several companies contributing according to their means.

SECTION 7.

INTRODUCTION OF LOTTERIES AND PATENTS—SUMPTUARY REGULATIONS.

The queen also tried lotteries as a means of raising money, and endeavoured to promote them by precepts addressed to the companies, through the lord mayor. In 1567, the mayor informs the Grocers' company, that he had received from the lords of the queen's privy council, in her grace's name, a letter "in commendacion of the lotterie lately published by her highness, which, for the furtherance of the same, did require that the wardens should call all the companie together, and exhorte the same to adventure some reasonable sum toward the preferment of the same lotterie." Whereupon every one of the company present at the reading of the letter, promised "to put in somewhat, as to themselves should prove good." They also agreed that the wardens should adventure the sum of twenty

pounds on behalf of the company itself. The payment of the prizes in this lottery was, even when gained, very tardy, so that when, in 1585, the queen had recourse to another lottery for armour, very urgent entreaties were necessary to engage persons in it, and precepts were issued to the companies, stating, that since the publishing of the proceedings respecting the lottery, the coming in of adventures was very slack, by reason of the hard opinion and distrust conceived of the last lotteries, and from the length of time set down for that in hand. And having her majesty's grant of the lottery, which was intended specially to benefit Mr. John Calthorpe, who had so well deserved in bringing the same into the realm, the council had reduced the time of the execution of the said lottery, to the 8th of March, then next ensuing, at which time, "there should be a true delivery of the prizes to the winners." It is added, "We mean to appoint twenty persons, to see that no man shall be defrauded of such part or parts of the armour, as may fall to his lot, by the said lottery." And in order to speed the execution of it, we hope, on the receipt hereof, you will call the aldermen your brethren together, and persuade every man to adventure, and to deal with the masters and wardens of all the companies, to make adventures. And for so doing, there shall be bestowed on the lord mayor, as her majesty's gift, in respect of the forward service of the said lottery, one basin and ewer of one hundred pounds; and to each of the sheriffs, one basin and ewer of one hundred marks, to remain to the use of the lord mayor and sheriffs, and their successors, for ever."

Notwithstanding pressing solicitations and promised rewards, the companies showed considerable backwardness in embarking on the undertaking; and in the books of the Merchant-Tailors, a sarcastic motto is entered, as the one adopted by them on that occasion:

One byrde in the hande is worth two in the wood;

If we get the great lot, it will do us good.

In the next reign, a lottery of plate was tried, towards the plantation of Virginia, and all the companies adventured in it. The Grocers are stated to have won a silver gilt salt and cover, worth about thirteen pounds, for a venture of sixty-two pounds, five shillings, and a fee of nineteen shillings and sixpence, delivery!

When the system of forced loans was no longer available, the granting of patents for monopolies, and for the oversight and control of different trades, was resorted to. Of the abuses of this custom, there is the following notice. "She (Elizabeth) granted her servants and courtiers patents for monopolies; and those patents they sold to others, who were thereby enabled to raise commodities to what price they pleased, and who put invincible restraints upon all commerce, industry, and emulation in the arts. It is astonishing to consider the numbers and importance of those commodities which were thus assigned over to the patentees; currants, salt, iron, powder, cards, calf-skins, felts, leather, ox shin bones, train oil, lists of cloth, &c., &c., these are but a part of the commodities which had been appropriated by the monopolists. When this list was read in the house, a member cried, 'Is not bread in the number?' 'Bread!' said every one with astonishment. 'Yes, I assure you,' replied he, 'if affairs go on at this rate, we shall have bread reduced to a monopoly before the next parliament.'" Complaints were, at the same period, raised against the companies, on account of "concealments," as they were called, or omissions charged to have been wilfully and fraudulently made by the companies, in returning the value of their chantry estates in the reign of Edward the Sixth. Strype says, that Sir Edward Stafford, one of Elizabeth's courtiers, having obtained the queen's patent, took with him some prying fellows, who hoped thereby to make some gain to themselves, and the companies were again put to great trouble, and their lands and tenements made liable to be forfeited and taken away from them, by means of such patents; what was discovered becoming the property of these patentees, commonly called *concealers*, and the queen having some small part in fee-farm. Two of these concealers, named Adam and Woodshaw, obtained by these means, the sum of 838*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* per annum, from the estates of the several companies, with a fee-farm of 22*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* per annum, to the queen. This sum, as well as the whole yearly value of all their lands, had been previously bestowed by the companies, "upon the poor, upon scholars, and upon public good uses: without employing any one penny thereof in their dinners, or other like charges, but the same were wholly borne of their quarterage, and the warden's charge out of their own purses."

The companies likewise received precepts on matters unconnected with pecuniary affairs. When seditious publications and practices excited the fears of the sovereign, the lord mayor regularly received commands to call on the companies, invoking their aid. The plan adopted by the Ironmongers' company to get possession of any seditious works which might be in the hands of the members of their company, was as follows: "A secret place" was made in the court room, to which every man present was compelled to ascend, put in his hand, and then return; "which was to the end, that such persons of the company as had any of the same seditious books, should there let them fall; and being but one man at one time, there was none to accuse him that had any book." The author of this plan does not seem to have taken into account, the possibility of the members leaving their seditious books at home, instead of depositing them in the "secret place." The apprehension of the Spanish Armada was another occasion, on which very solemn appeals were made to the companies; and a general declaration of the willingness of the members to serve her with their lives, lands, and goods, was signed and sealed by the members.

Sumptuary regulations, which were carried to a ridiculous excess, were frequently carried into execution through the medium of the City companies. Though Elizabeth was inordinately fond of dress and ornament, she evinced the greatest anxiety that her subjects should dress plainly. "Wenches" were to have their "gownes, kirtles, waistcoats, and petticoats unmingled with silk," and apprentices had their ruff-bands shortened, and were obliged to wear the collars of their doublets "without peccadilly or other support." Two members of the Ironmongers' company were, in 1579, chosen to attend, with two men free of the Grocers, at Bishopsgate, from seven o'clock in the morning till six in the evening, in order to examine the habits of all persons passing through the gate. A solemn precept from the mayor, also commanded and admonished the companies, under a denunciation of inflicting "the penalty on all the offenders without any favour," that none of the queen's subjects were to wear *caps* otherwise than according to the fashion prescribed. In the next reign the regulations were even more minute. James complained of "the abuse growing by excess, and strange fashions of apparell, used by manye apprentices, and the inordinate pryde of mayde servants, and woman servants, in their excess of apparell and follye in varietie of newe fashions." He regulated the clothing of apprentices, who were to wear no hat, the facing of which should exceed three inches in breadth in the head; or which, with the band and trimming, should cost above five shillings; the band was to be destitute of lace, made of linen not exceeding five shillings the ell, and to have no other work or ornament than a plain hem and one stitch; and if the apprentice should wear a ruff-band, it was not to exceed three inches in height, before it was gathered and set into the stock, nor more than two inches in depth before the setting into the same stock. The collar of the doublet was to have neither the "poynt, well (whale) bone, or plaits," but to be made closely and comely, and, as well as the breeches, was to be made only of "cloth, kersy, fustian, sackcloth, canvase, English leather, or English stuffe," and of not more than 2*s.* 6*d.* the yard; his stockings were to be of woollen, yarn, or kersy; he was not to wear "Spanish shoes with polonia heels," or have his hair with any "tufte or lock," but cut short in a decent and comely manner. Particular directions were also given as to the dress of the London servant girls, and the restrictions imposed afford a curious picture of the sort of attire worn by such damsels at that period. The servant girl was to wear no "lawn, kambrick, tiffany, velvet lawns, or white wires," on the head, or about "the kerchief, koyfe, crest cloth, or shadow," but only linen, and that not to exceed five shillings an ell. Her ruff was on no account to be more than four yards in length before the gathering or setting of it in, or of greater depth than three inches; nor was she "to wear any fardingal at all, great or little; nor any body and sleeves of wire, whalebone, or other stifening (stiffening), saving canvase or buckram only."

SECTION 8.

INTERFERENCE WITH THE PRIVILEGES OF THE COMPANIES— RUINOUS EFFECT OF THE CIVIL WARS.

The City companies were not allowed, without much contest on their part, to retain the freedom and independence of their several bodies, and to choose and appoint their own officers. The interference of the sovereign in these



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matters first commenced in 1565, when Elizabeth attempted to direct the disposal of some premises of the Ironmongers' company. In 1579, the same company was recommended, or rather commanded by Elizabeth, in a letter written by herself, to grant a new lease of a portion of their premises to one William Sparkes. Immediate compliance was of course yielded. Such applications now became frequent. Sir Francis Walsingham asked of the Merchant-Tailors for the reversion of the clerkship of the company in favour of one Henry Foster; Lord Morley asked for a living for his chaplain; and the queen repeated such requests as that above noted. In the two next reigns the same unconstitutional practice was continued. In 1622, the King, Prince Henry, the Princess Elizabeth, and George Villiers, duke of Buckingham, all condescended to become suitors to the Merchant-Tailors for the reversion of the clerkship of their company for one Lawrence Lowndes. The annoyance of these demands was also experienced by all the other companies, and was carried to a ridiculous height. "In December, 1622, the Grocers had no less than six suitors for their vacant cook's place, all well recommended. The lord mayor commended *his* cook to their court as being very sufficient in his profession, of an honest and civil behaviour, and requested, for his sake, that they would take consideration of him. This candidate was opposed by the cook of Sir Humphrey Handford, Knight, one of the sheriffs, who procured the same Sir George Calvert, by his *majesty's* command, to write in his behalf, recommending him as 'singularly skilful in his profession,' also as known to the late Queen Anne of Denmark, and as having been for some time, in consequence, in his *majesty's* own service. The only two candidates permitted to go to ballot were the above; and the election was conducted with all the zeal and manœuvres which would have lately attended that of a member of parliament."

The church patronage of the companies was that with which Charles seemed most disposed to interfere. In 1636, he wrote to the Grocers, saying, that he had conferred the vicarage of Plymouth on Dr. Wilson, incumbent of their church of St. Stephen's, Walbroke, and he requested them to keep their vacant living open to a successor to be named by him. The company determined there should be no nomination till the rectory became void. The king afterwards appointed Dr. Howell, one of his own chaplains, but the company finding, on inquiry, that the doctor would not promise to reside on his London living, if elected, except during winter, they put in a second candidate in nomination with him. After much manœuvring on both sides, the company elected their own candidate, Mr. Saxby; but the king expressed himself so much displeased, that Mr. Saxby tendered his resignation. The royal candidate now again came forward, and was admitted; but the company took care to express that such admission was by the *free* and unanimous consent of the whole court.

In 1650, the arbitrary custom of interference in the pri-

villeges of the companies was extinguished by an order of the Merchant-Tailors to the effect, that their court "finding how various persons, when suitors for alms or situations which fall vacant, are in the habit of procuring eminent men to *interfere* in their behalf, by speaking, by recommendatory letters, and by other means, which were formally disallowed, and always disliked by this court as tending to prejudice and forestall their own free elections of such as themselves might wish to serve, do resolve that whatsoever person shall in future become a suitor for an almshouse, place, or pension, and shall procure any person to apply to the court for such, or that shall bring any nobleman's letters in the like behalf, otherwise than as certificates of good behaviour, such person, in every such case, shall be held to be incapable of whatever favour he may apply for."

The spirit of monopoly often appeared strongly among the companies; a ridiculous proof of which was exhibited in the Painters Stainers, a company which had existed in the reign of Edward the Third, but had not been incorporated. In the time of Elizabeth they sought this favour, but endeavoured to get inserted in their charter an absurd prohibition. It was that they might have power to restrain all persons from painting pictures of the queen, noblemen, and others, as well as "all other manner of paintings," unless such persons had served a seven years' apprenticeship to their company; and for the absurd reason, that such works "showed fair to the sight, but were not *substantially* wrought." "Elizabeth, (says Mr. Herbert,) who possessed the portraits of Sir Antonio Moore, Hilliard, and other high names, it can hardly be conceived, would have done other than laugh at this petition; but it seems not to have been presented; for upon asking the advice of the lord mayor and aldermen, they honestly answered, 'that they had no judgment or skill in the science to discern such fraudulent workmanship from what was *substantial* and good,' which caused the prohibition to be omitted. One cannot help reflecting, that had Vandyke lived in this age of absurd restriction, his 'fair-looking' works, for want of being '*substantially* wrought,' might never have delighted posterity."

The disastrous effects of the civil wars in the reign of Charles the First, were very severely felt by the Livery Companies. From the commencement of those mischievous contests in 1640, until the fire of London in 1666, the companies were subjected to the most harassing exactions, spoliations, and calamities. In the former of these years, the king demanded 20,000*l.* from the city. The companies were severally assessed by precept to contribute to this amount, and paid their respective quotas, not, however, without strong opposition from some of them. In the following year, another precept demanded the payment of 40,000*l.* for the use of the parliament, and this being granted, there arrived another message to the city in 1642, thanking the companies for the former loan, and increasing the demand for that year to 100,000*l.* The professed

motive of this loan was the relief of Ireland; its covert one, to strengthen parliament against the king; and it appears that the city sided with parliament, for it obeyed this enormous demand with alacrity, and the sum was freely voted at a common hall convened for the purpose at Guildhall. Precepts were addressed to the several companies, and were not apparently disputed, except by the Ironmongers' company, who paid their share by absolute compulsion, after having disputed the right of a common hall to bind the companies. In the following year (1643), the whole of the companies' halls were compelled to make periodical payments in aid of the parliamentary struggle against the king, and in the autumn of the same year (on the approach of the royal army towards London), the parliament demanded 50,000*l.* in addition to such payments.

Woful was the condition of the City companies under this incessant exaction, and loud were their complaints at the state to which they were reduced. The Ironmongers lamented their "sadd condicion," having formerly lent to divers lords and to the parliament such large sums that they were "disabled and impoverished, soe that they cannot finde any meanes to satisfy his lordship's desire." The Grocers, equally dispirited, entered into "a sad and serious consideration of the miserable distractions and calamities of this kingdom, threatening the ruin thereof by sickness and famine, the certain attendants of an unnatural and bloody warre, which nowe reigneth in this kingdom," and in token of their grief and abasement they resolved to forego all convivial meetings, and even to omit their annual election.

In order to furnish the supplies which were thus arbitrarily exacted, not only were individuals belonging to the companies completely impoverished, but all the fraternities were obliged to sell or pawn their plate. The interest (in some cases a high one) promised on these loans, was also withheld both by the king and the parliament, neither party being faithful to their engagements. The Ironmongers' company held out more pertinaciously than the rest against these exactions, and on one occasion when summoned before the parliamentary committee, they used every effort to evade payment; but being solemnly informed by the commissioners, "that the money was to preserve their lives, their liberties, and the *Gospel of Jesus Christ*, which was more deare than all the rest," the assistants attempted to borrow 1300*l.*, but no man belonging to the hall would lend, pleading their individual weighty taxes as an excuse; the company, therefore, were finally obliged to sell all their plate.

This career of exaction was followed by the dismantling of the companies' halls. Religious paintings, and other decorations spared at the Reformation as harmless, were now included in the list of superstitious objects, requiring to be banished or destroyed. The hangings of Merchant-Tailors' Hall exhibited a pictorial history of John the Baptist; these were noticed as superstitious and offensive, and were eventually defaced. The same course was pursued with the other companies; and when at length it became the settled purpose of parliament to take away the king's life, the metropolis being filled with troops, the halls of the several fraternities, as well as the churches and other public buildings, were converted into barracks. The Merchant-Tailors' company had sufficient interest with General Fairfax to get freed from the nuisance. The general's warrant was as follows:—"Whereas inconvenience has been represented to me to fall out in case any soldiers are quartered at Merchant-Tailors' Hall, and there being very many poor belonging to that company, these are to require you, on sight thereof, to forbear to quarter either horse or foot in the said hall; and hereof you are to be observant, as you will answer for the contrary. Given under my hand and seal, in Queen street, 28th December, 1648. THO. FAIRFAX." Directed, "To the Quartermaster, Centinels, and other Officers whom it may concern." The company were so delighted with this exemption from a general grievance, that they presented the quartermaster with twenty pounds, and the individual who brought the protection to them with ten shillings.

After the annihilation of royal authority, the city became the grand focus of the parliamentary government, as is abundantly testified by the numerous tracts and other records of the period. "Guildhall was a second House of Commons, an auxiliary senate, and the companies' halls the meeting-places of those branches of it denominated committees. All the '*Mercuries*,' or newspapers of the day, abound with notices of the occupation of the companies' premises by these committees. Goldsmiths' Hall was their

bank; Haberdashers' Hall their court for adjustment of claims; Clothworkers' Hall for sequestration; and all the other halls of the great companies were offices for the transaction of other government business. Weavers' Hall might properly be denominated their exchequer. From this place parliament was accustomed to issue bills, about and before 1652, in the nature of our exchequer bills, and which were commonly known under the name of 'Weavers' Hall bills.'"

SECTION 9.

STATE OF THE COMPANIES SUBSEQUENT TO THE RESTORATION —PAGEANTS.

In the festivities and rejoicings consequent on the Restoration, the City companies bore a conspicuous share. Notwithstanding the impoverished state to which they had been reduced in the reign of Charles the First, they appear to have recovered themselves sufficiently during the protectorate to greet with some appearance of their former pomp and dignity the restored monarch. Such of the trade societies as could afford it presented rich gifts; others offered the most affectionate congratulations. They feasted the monarch at their halls, and proudly enrolled his name among the members of the Grocers' company. But while they were thus lavishing their hospitality, Charles appears to have eyed the tokens of their yet remaining wealth with considerable longings for its appropriation to his own purposes. Gradually, but completely, the whole of the companies were brought into entire subjection to the crown, and the freedom which had been so manfully upheld in former reigns, was completely yielded to the avaricious monarch. His first attack on their independence was in the second year of his reign, by passing an act for well-governing and regulating corporations, under pretence of which all freedom of action was soon destroyed. Notwithstanding this infringement of their liberties, the corporation and companies, in 1665, built and furnished a fine new ship, for the purpose of presenting to government. One of the papers of the period contains the following announcement:—"This Saturday my lord mayor and the rest of the remanent aldermen went to Deptford to see their new ship, the *Loyal London*, and in what fitness she is; their care having been to provide and pay money from time to time to satisfie her workmen, and found her so forward, that she seems only to want anchors, and some of her last furniture."

This was the year previous to that direful calamity, the great fire of London, which was most destructive to the halls of the companies, mostly situated in the very heart of the city. Those of the Leathersellers, Pinners, and a few others, beyond the range of the conflagration, escaped, but all the rest were completely destroyed. By this dreadful calamity the companies' records were burnt, their plate melted, and their city premises, from whence they drew their incomes, reduced to ashes. To crown their misfortunes, they were overwhelmed with a load of debt, (the consequence of the compulsory loans they had been subjected to,) which they had no means of paying.

Under this accumulation of distress, their first steps were to secure the melted plate, and to obtain an estimate of their losses and capabilities. Seventeen days after the commencement of the fire, the masters and wardens of the Merchant-Tailors' company set themselves "to view the company's plate, melted in the late dreadful fire," and to treat with "Mr. Taylor at the Tower, or any other person, about the refining of the same to the best advantage." They also ordered that, "on account of the company's house being burned," all persons who received 6*s.* 8*d.* and 2*s.* 6*d.* quarterly, and were chosen by the wardens' substitutes, and paid from the stock of the society, should be no longer paid their pensions, except those who were in great want." The Grocers' company also received particulars from their wardens "of the company's plate melted in the hall, in the late violent and destructive fire, and of the melted parcels taken up and put together, with the company's urgent occasions for a supply of money: it was therefore determined 'that the same plate (amounting to about two hundred pounds weight of metal) should be sold and disposed of to the best advantage for the benefit of the company.'" They had also a schedule of the company's houses and rents read to them, and "in regard to the shortness of the days, the distance of divers persons' abodes, and the danger and troublesome-ness of going in the dark amongst the ruins, not then allowing them time for debate and determination," they agreed to meet weekly.

By extraordinary exertions, by subscriptions, and col-

lections, and by the donations of wealthy individuals, the whole of the companies contrived to rebuild their halls in the course of two or three years, and by granting advantageous leases to their tenants, their houses and premises in various parts of the city soon rose from the ruins, and advanced with the new metropolis. Thus, as early as the year 1670, the old order of things was nearly restored, and the companies began a new career. By the charters of James the Second, new privileges were conferred on the companies. The ancient mode of election by the commonalty was superseded, the courts being thenceforth made self-elective. The old ordinances were re-modelled and ameliorated, but their milder provisions even would be thought despotical in the present age.

The officers of the several companies at this period had much the same duties to perform as those which had belonged to their situations previous to the Reformation, except the chaplain, whose office it no longer was to sing daily masses, and perform services for the dead, but to conduct public worship according to the spirit of Protestantism, and to pray for the prosperity of the brotherhood. The chaplain preached before the companies at their several churches, where they had a portion of the church reserved for their use, as was the case at St. Martin Outwich, where the Merchant-Tailors had a gallery erected expressly for themselves, and also accommodated the Skinners' company with sittings in the church. The Fishmongers had an aisle set apart for them in the church of St. Michael, Crooked Lane. The duties of the chaplain included common prayer on court days. The prayer used on these occasions by the Merchant-Tailors' company was a very excellent one, and is left on record. The concluding address is as follows: "Good Lord, keep this noble city of London, and defend it from grievous plagues and contagious sickness, that we may often in brotherly and true love assemble and meet together to Thy glory and our mutual comfort in Christ Jesus; and, merciful Father, bless this *society and brotherhood*, and be present with us in all our assemblies and councils, that we may use them to Thy glory and the discharge of our duties. Bless and divert by Thy Holy Spirit all our actions and endeavours, and give us grace faithfully and honestly to discharge the trust reposed in us, as well for our good friends and brethren deceased as any other way belonging to us, to the glory of Thy holy name, and peaceful comfort of our souls, and good example and incitement of others." During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, many alterations had taken place in the different observances of the company. Elections were still preceded by the religious rite of going to the company's church, but a sermon was substituted for the mass. Feasts had increased in splendour, and in the delicacies displayed at them, but they had lost other attractions. The side-boards were again loaded with plate, and boys recited Latin verses; but *sisters* were no longer admitted. The election feasts and ceremonies had revived, and various accounts are left of the usages connected with them. The master and wardens were crowned with garlands "like the heraldic wreath," except that they were made of red velvet, and had pieces of silver fastened on them, engraven with the company's arms. Caps of maintenance were used by the Skinners' company, instead of wreaths or garlands, and these were set on the heads of the "most worshipfull" of the company with numerous ceremonies. The drinking cups used on these occasions by the master and two wardens, were three large silver cocks or birds, which on being unscrewed were found to be filled with wine.

The style of the companies' pageants had varied considerably from the ancient usage, but reached their utmost splendour shortly before the great fire of London and a few years after that event. Mr. Herbert remarks, that however childish, and in some instances, ridiculous, some of them may seem to the present intellectual age, it will be seen, in others, that occasionally much taste and ingenuity were exercised, and that in almost all, particularly the latter spectacles, an excess of magnificence was displayed, which, if sights had not gone quite out of fashion with us, would draw crowds even now. The "Maiden Chariot" is given as an instance of this magnificence. This splendid piece of machinery formed part of the pageant of the Mercers' company. It was twenty-two feet high, entirely covered with silver embossed work; carried upwards of twenty superbly dressed characters, and was drawn by nine white Flanders horses, three abreast, in rich trappings of silver, and white feathers, each mounted by an allegorical personage, and the whole accompanied by more than one

hundred attendants. A grand annual muster of the companies, called the "Marching Watch," was of more ancient institution, and was forbidden by Henry the Eighth, on account of the vast expense attending it. The machinery for all these pageants was provided by artificers regularly kept by the city at Leadenhall, from which place the processions always started. The bearers of lights on these occasions, were called cresset-bearers, and are noticed as general accompaniments of public rejoicings.

Let nothing that's magnifical,
Or that may tend to London's graceful state,
Be unperformed, as showes and solemne feastes,
Watches in armour, triumphs, *cresset lights*,
Bonafires, belles, and peals of ordinance,
And pleasure. See that plaies be published,
Mai-games and maskes, with mirth and minstrelsie,
Pageants and school-feastes, beares and puppet-plaies.

As the splendour of the companies' pageants increased, the lord mayor's show became the most attractive of all city sights. "Foists," or barges, were provided, ornamented with sea-nymphs, sirens, tritons, sea-lions, &c., and containing fireworks.

Yet one day in the year, for sweet 'tis voic'd,
And that is when it is the lord mayor's foist.

Every kind of adulatory address was adopted on those occasions. When Sir Thomas Roe was the next lord mayor, the Batchelors' company, whose patron was St. John the Baptist, supplied a pageant, in which St. John and other similar personages were represented by youths, who spoke complimentary speeches, in praise of the mayor. St. John's speech began, "I am that voyce in Wilderness, w'ich ones the Jewes did calle," while another youth, alluding to the mayor's name, says, "Behold the *Roe*, the swift in chace," &c. On some occasions, children and females represented London, the Thames, the Country, the Soldier, Sailor, Nymphs, &c., as also Magnitude, Loyalty, and other virtues, which were all supposed to appertain to the new lord mayor. Among water spectacles, one is mentioned in which the Grocers' company was emblematically represented by "five islands, artfully garnished with all manner of Indian fruit trees, drugges, spiceries, and the like; the middle island having a faire castle especially beautified." The company to which the new lord mayor belonged, always furnished, at its own cost, the scenic representations and actors connected with these shows.

When pageants were at their highest perfections, they generally consisted of five principal pieces or machines, which are described as: 1. A triumphal temple with appropriate characters, flanked by persons riding on the animals, which formed the company's supporters, who bore shields or banners of their arms; or, perhaps, of a triumphal chariot, as above, drawn by the like animals, their supporters, carrying either the company's patron saint, or an allegorical personage representing London, as the seat of sovereignty, in either case with numerous proper attendants. 2. A throne or scene, with allegorical personages, alluding to the British monarchy and kingdoms, comprising poetical characters complimentary of the reigning monarch's virtues. 3. An allegorical representation of the origin of the company's trade, or of their patron saint. 4. The principal pageant, otherwise called "The Pageant of Trade," "The Factory of Commerce," or more frequently, "The Company's Pageant," from its being a direct emblematical representation of the company's trade, in all its various branches: and 5. A scene allusive to the benefit or riches procured by such trade, under the name of "The Palace of Pleasure," "The Palace of Delight," "The Arbour of Delights," and other such titles.

The Ironmongers, in 1620, at the swearing in of their mayor, exhibited at their trade pageant, a representation of "Lemnon's forge, with Vulcan, the smith of Lemnos, at work, surrounded by his servants, in black hair waistcoats, and leather aprons. A fire blazed in the furnace, lightnings flashed, thunders rolled; and, at intervals, harsh music and songs sounded praises to iron, the anvil, and the hammer." In 1685, at the inauguration of Sir Robert Jeffreys, the same company's pageant was a show representing Mount Etna, with Vulcan and the Cyclops at work, within a cavern at the base; some at the forge, and others digging metals and minerals. Apollo descended with Cupids, and entertained them with music. Vulcan also made his speech to the lord mayor. In 1671, Sir George Waterman, belonging to the Skinners' company, had amongst the pageants at his show, a wilderness, consisting of a variety of

trees, bushes, shrubs, brambles, thickets, inhabited and haunted by divers wild beasts, and birds of various kinds and colours. In the front of this scene were two *negro boys*, properly habited, and mounted upon two panthers, bearing the banners of the lord mayor, and the company's arms. Sir Thomas Pilkington, of the same company, mayor in 1689, varied this scene of a wilderness, called "The Company's Pageant," by introducing, in addition, to the wild beasts of the former show, "wolves, bears, panthers, leopards, sables, and beavers, together with *dogs, cats, foxes, rabbits*, and which latter, the account says, *tost* now and then into a balcony, fall off upon the company's heads, and being by them *tost* again into the crowd, *afforded great diversion*."

The Drapers' company, in 1679, at Sir Robert Clayton's show, introduced in their trade pageant characters representing the twelve months of the year, and numerous other allegorical personages, richly dressed. The concluding pageant exhibited a landscape of *Salisbury Plain*, "where rustic shepherds and shepherdesses were feeding and folding their flocks; and for the future exaltation of the Drapers' delight, here were several trades met together, all pertinent for making of cloth; as carders, spinners, dyers, wool-combers, shearers, dressers, fullers, weavers, which were *set* without order, because the excellence of this scene did consist of confusion. Although their number and weight were too ponderous for all of them to work, according to their distinct arts and mysteries, yet they were here met in their persons to rejoice and express their frolics in dancing, jumping, tumbling, piping, and singing, and all such jovial actions and movements of agility, as might express their joy and exultation in their compliments to the new lord mayor, and their service to the Drapers' company."

The pageant of the Haberdashers, in 1699, when one of their company was mayor, is described as having "a stately chariot all enriched with embossed work of silver, driven upon four golden Catherine wheels, in which was seated St. Catherine, the original patroness of the honourable company of Haberdashers, the chariot drawn by two large Indian goats, argent, being the supporters of the company." This chariot was followed by a scenic exhibition consisting of a very large stage, on which "were planted, almost all round, several shops, namely, milliners, hosiers, hatters, cappers, and other branches of the haberdashery trade. Commerce sat in the rear of this scene, on a rich throne, and descended as the lord mayor passed by, to make his speech. During the movement of this pageant, several papers of tobacco were given amongst the people."

In 1694, the Clothworkers exhibited the *Garden of the Hesperides*, with Jason and his golden fleece. "This pageant," says the programme, "is entirely applicable to the honourable Clothworkers; the fleece being a golden one, morally so represented by virtue of the riches arising from the manufacture of the fleece. The dragon, being a watchful creature, intimates the *caution, industry, and vigilance*, that ought to secure, support, and preserve trade; whilst Jason, that gave the dragon a sleeping potion, and so carried away the golden fleece, was in reality an industrious merchant, that equipped his ship, the Argonaut, and by traffic and commerce carried off the golden fleece, namely, the trade of the world." After this came the chariot of Apollo, drawn by two golden griffins, (the company's supporters,) mounted by triumphant figures; Apollo himself, as the shepherd of King Admetus, rode in the chariot, and whilst addressing the lord mayor, "a rich figure of a rising sun, above ten foot in diameter, not seen before,—and whose beams cherish both sheep and shepherd,—appeared above his head out of the back of the chariot, with all his beams displayed in gold."

At the Vintners' pageant in 1702, the lord mayor was first saluted by the Artillery company, before whom stepped the Vintners' patron saint, St. Martin, splendidly armed *cap à pie*, having a large mantle of scarlet; and followed by several beggars, supplicating for alms, dancing satyrs, persons in rich liveries, halibetters, and old Roman lictors. They all marched to St. Paul's churchyard, where the saint severed his mantle with his sword, and delivered a portion to the mendicants.

One of the trade pageants of the Goldsmiths' company exhibited what was called *The Goldsmith's Laboratory*, representing "a large and spacious workshop, of several artificers, distinct in their proper apartments, for the several operators in the mystery of the goldsmiths, containing forges, anvils, hammers, and other instruments of art, &c." In the midst, on a rich golden chair, sat St. Dunstan, the

ancient patron and guardian of the company, *in pontificalibus*, in one hand a golden crozier, in the other his goldsmith's tongs, with the devil beneath his feet. A large goldsmith's forge faced the saint's throne, with fire, crucibles, &c., and a boy blowing the bellows. The representation of a goldsmith's shop full of plate, and artificers at work in the various departments, with the assay-master making an assay, and workmen hammering a massy piece of plate, to the sound of music, &c., filled up this pageant.

Several of the companies still possess remains of these old shows, particularly the Grocers' company. The scenes were painted like those of the theatres, in distemper; and the animals which drew the pageants were fabricated so like what are used there, that there is little doubt but that they were the work of theatrical artists.

The last public event of any consequence in the history of the City companies, was their complete subjugation, in 1684, to the power of the king, by means of the *quo warranto*, or inquiry into the validity of the City charter. Charles the Second, like his father and grandfather, early showed a desire to interfere with the government and property of these companies, and the result of the proceedings just noticed, made him master not only of these, but of all the corporations in England. The charter of the City was arbitrarily and illegally declared forfeited, and several of the companies, terrified by the proceedings against London, surrendered their charters. The surrender of their charters was, in most of the companies, preceded by a petition, stating their having been chartered and incorporated by former royal grants, which conferred on them divers immunities, privileges, and franchises. That his sacred majesty having, "in his princely wisdom," thought proper to issue a *quo warranto* against them, they had reason to fear they had highly offended him, and they therefore earnestly begged his pardon for what was past, and "to accept their humble submission to his good will and pleasure, and that he would be graciously pleased to continue their former charters, with such regulations for their future government as he should please." This, and other acts of servility on the part of the companies, were very agreeable to the monarch, and he was pleased to grant them another charter, *under such restrictions as he thought fit*. These restrictions effectually destroyed all liberty of will and action in the companies, and permitted them to exist only during the royal pleasure.

In the succeeding reign an attempt was made to influence the companies' selection of voters. James the Second directed the lord mayor to issue precepts requiring them to return "such loyal and worthy members as might be judged worthy and fit to be, by the lord mayor and court of aldermen, approved of as liverymen to elect members to serve for the city of London at the approaching parliament." Mr. Herbert remarks, "that what made this more glaringly corrupt was, that most of the independent aldermen had been previously put out of their places, and compliant tools appointed by the crown in their room." But the arbitrary proceedings of this monarch were of short duration; for at the news of the coming of the Prince of Orange in 1688, James gave a hasty order in council, preparatory to the passing of an act, whereby all restrictions consequent upon the judgment on the *quo warranto* were repealed. Soon afterwards, a special court of lord mayor and aldermen was held, pursuant to the grants for restoring the city charter, when an order was made for restoring the liverymen of the several companies of the city to the state they had been in before such judgment. The abdication of James confirmed their emancipation. The security of the city and its immunities and privileges being deemed of great importance, on this joyful event, William and Mary not only passed a statute reversing the *quo warranto* of the city, but enacting, as to associated bodies generally, that they should henceforth stand as they respectively were at the time of the judgment given be restored to all their estates, lands, tenements, &c., and that all charters, letters patents, or grants of the last two reigns, should be wholly null and void.

Thus were tranquillity and confidence restored, and the privileges and rights of corporate bodies firmly established, so that the affairs of the livery companies rapidly improved. From that period to the present, their history has been of too uneventful a nature to require much comment.